PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] JUNE 28, 1941 [No. 50

LECTURE L.

ENCIRCLEMENT OF AMERICA BY THE AXIS.

The following is the text of an address which Col. Knox, U. S. Secretary of the Navy, delivered before the American Newspaper Publishers Association in New York on April 24. The speech was broadcast to the nation :—

MAY I express the deep sense of personal responsibility I feel in coming before you as a life-long member of your profession, who for the moment is charged with a grave public responsibility. This sense of gravity is increased when I remember that my official responsibility has to do with the maintenance and swift enlargement of the nation's first line of defence in a world devastated by war—war whose dark shadows gather in threatening clouds upon our own horizons.

From me, my fellow craftsmen, you have a right to expect utter frankness; and from me, as Secretary of the Navy, engaged in constructing the greatest Navy the world has ever seen, you have a right to expect the sober truth. Because I am a newspaperman as well as a public official, may I say that I have a very lively interest in the establishment and maintenance of the friendliest and frankest possible

relationship between the Navy and the press. As a newspaperman who has known no other occupation and who feels a great sense of pride in his profession, I am utterly and unreservedly opposed to any form of compulsory censorship especially in time of peace. In time of war, necessarily, there must be certain vital military information, which no loyal and patriotic newspaperman would want to publish anyway, withheld from publication; but even in time of war. with this single qualification, I am opposed to censorship! I believe the end desired can be achieved by a purely voluntary co-operation between the War and Navy Departments and the newspapers. To the establishment of such a relationship I am already bending my efforts, and shall continue to do so as long as I continue to serve as your Secretary of the Navy. In a democracy in a time of grave national peril unity is imperative. You do not achieve unity whether in the field of labour, of capital, or of public relations when you resort to compulsion! Unity may be achieved only through the processes of mutual understanding and close co-operation.

While the relationship which should exist between those charged with the national defence and the various organs of publicity is of the gravest importance, I would turn your thoughts to-night to a far graver question. I am going to ask you to survey with me the world situation. If our survey is to be of use, it must be utterly realistic and objective. It should savour neither of a destructive pessimism nor of a blind unreasoning optimism. When grave danger threatens to all that we cherish, we can afford to indulge neither in wishful thinking nor in cowardly defeatism.

As Secretary of the Navy, of course, I do have access to intimate details of information from all parts of the world that are not available to all, but this larger and more intimate knowledge in nowise changes the general aspect of the world situation as it is set forth daily in your publications and mine.

What we all see is an AMERICA which is gradually becoming encircled by military powers, whose ideals, institutions and methods are all of them irreconcilably antagonistic to our ideals, institutions and methods. These same powers have also openly and repeatedly proclaimed themselves our enemies, and these openly avowed enemies have joined themselves together in a pact which they do not hesitate to say is aimed at us and at us alone!

The only reason that this hostile pact, admittedly aimed at us, has not resulted in open warfare, is because it does not suit the present purpose of these powers to engage in war with us. Whenever in the judgment of the Axis powers it better suits their purpose to begin hostilities, hostilities will begin, and nothing we can do save prostrating ourselves in abject surrender will change this.

For months there has been almost complete suspension of all direct contact between the UNITED STATES and all of EUROPE, save BRITAIN alone. Across the course of the ships that ply this single route has been flung an enlarged fleet, no one knows how numerous, of submarines—submarines which, due to scientific discoveries, are vastly more effective than they were in the last war. The sea-going range of these submarines has been immensely increased, and the field of their activity steadily expands westward, far over the line which divides the Atlantic between EUROPE and AMERICA.

Possession of convenient bases or the French coast has added a whole fleet of surface raiders—ships of high speed and some of them of great gun power, which prey disastrously upon the commerce between BRITAIN and AMERICA. Finally, from bases in northern NORWAY and western FRANCE, huge fleets of heavy bombers circle back and forth to add terror from the skies to the dangers that lurk along the sea lanes leading to a beleaguered ENGLAND. Steadily the toll of lost ships mounts far faster than replacements can be made. To the southward of conquered EUROPE lies the Mediterranean, an accustomed highway for our ocean commerce in times of peace. To-day the Mediterranean is forbidden water. On its bosom ply only the craft that carry supplies to fighting armies, and the British and Italian men of war who fight for its control. Gone is all of our contact with the nations that border that sea. The great continent of AFRICA, itself a field for contending armies, offers no ports for our merchantmen's trade. Its western coast which thrusts itself halfway across the south Atlantic, affording an excellent base for operations against the southern half of the Western Hemisphere, is denied our commerce. Whether we swing eastward around the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE or to the westward through the Straits of Magellan, we find enemy-raider infested seas. At the end of our journey, go we westward or eastward, we encounter an Axis partner who openly proclaims he entered that partnership in an effort to prevent us from interfering with their policies of ruthless military aggression.

The latest link in this chain of encirclement that is being forged by the Axis powers is the recently announced agreement between RUSSIA and JAPAN. RUSSIA was not in any peril of attack by JAPAN. JAPAN not only has her hands full and more than full, in her attempt to subjugate southern CHINA by force of arms, but her aspirations are not northward. They are southward. JAPAN imperatively needed assurance that she would not be attacked in the north while she was pressing her designs in the south. Just how much assurance JAPAN feels that her MANCHUKUO border is safe I do not know, but whatever that assurance may be it enhances the likelihood of an expansion of hostilities by JAPAN into a region which is one of the sources of critical war materials for both GREAT BRITAIN and ourselves. The conclusion of this pact is certain to strengthen the hand of the war-party in JAPAN.

JAPAN's promise, on the other hand, not to help Hitler if Hitler should attack RUSSIA, is an empty promise. JAPAN could not help RUSSIA in EUROPE if she wanted to, and Hitler does not need the help of JAPAN for such a purpose. The end therefore of this deal between RUSSIA and JAPAN, which tightens the circle around us, leaves RUSSIA quite as likely an object of attack by Hitler as he was before the deal was made, and leaves JAPAN free from any Russian interference in the FAR EAST. Summed up in military terms, the Russo-Japanese agreement makes JAPAN more secure as she pursues her dream of domination of all eastern ASIA, and leaves RUSSIA no stronger in the event of an attempted Nazi seizure of the UKRAINE.

Thus, everywhere as we estimate the situation the world around, the pressure on us grows—through LIBYA; through EGYPT and SUEZ; through YUGOSLAVIA and across to the sea; from the western coast of AFRICA to South AMERICA; through the Pacific to the DUTCH NETHERLANDS, and most vital of all across the broad North Atlantic from German bases in FRANCE and NORWAY now to GREENLAND. German strategy—world strategy, carefully planned and efficiently executed—is becoming clearer each day. German aspirations for world domination can no longer be mistaken.

The jaws of the Nazi trap are closing. How long will we remain bemused and stupefied while the Axis powers press their plans for our isolation and ultimate defeat? Wherein lies the difference between what GERMANY has done to her earlier victims and what she is doing to us? First the bland and hypocritical assurance that she has no

hostile plans. That is what she told POLAND when she signed the Polish non-agression pact. Then the organization of a skilfully integrated information service that would lay bare our weaknesses, our internal divisions and our vulnerable spots just as she did in FRANCE; and then the organization of her fifth columns, not yet loosed to the maximum but sufficiently active to warn us unofficially of their presence, just as she did in NORWAY. Next a steady encirclement and seizure of vantage points from which to launch her attack, just exactly as she has just done in YUGOSLAVIA. Why we even emulate the Axis victims in our psychology. We think we can escape while all the rest of the world suffers. We keep alive a wretched partisanship when a united patriotism should control our thinking. We refuse to believe that the Axis powers even intend to attack us, or could be successful if they did. We refuse to face the realities of the situation in South AMERICA, the protection of which from successful invasion is a primary condition of our defence.

In that great region to the south of us, readily available as a base for an attack upon us, there is neither the military nor naval power to resist against invasion. In our fatuous complacency we ignore that in the present economic set up, the tug of self interest comes from EUROPE and not from North AMERICA. We fail to give due consideration to the size and significance of the subversive, pro-Nazi elements in many of the countries in that region—sebversive elements that would speedily promote revolutionary chaos to the advantage of the Axis itself. Many of us fail to face what it will mean to our security if the Axis powers once gain a foothold close to our borders. We ignore what that might mean to the safety of the Panama Canal, the most vital line of communication under the American flag. Too few of us realize and still fewer acknowledge the size of the disaster to American hemispheric safety if GERMANY, already the conqueror of FRANCE, should establish herself in DAKAR, a French colonial possession. From there with her surface ships, submarines and long range bombers, a victorious GERMANY could substantially cut us off from all commerce with South AMERICA, and make of the Monroe Doctrine a scrap of paper.

Finally, some of the very blind among us refuse to see what will be the inevitable result if the final link in the chain of our encirclement is forged, and the battle of the Atlantic is lost, and ENGLAND succumbs with her fleet sunk or captured.

This is but a partial, withal a brutally blunt summary, of the strategy of encirclement of which we are the victims. Before we attempt an inventory of the measure we could take to meet this growing menace, this obvious encirclement, let us thoroughly digest this fact: Suppose this should happen—that our encirclement and isolation was complete and ENGLAND had fallen, we then will be given but two choices—the choice of surrender or the choice of fighting. We won't surrender and we will fight. No one who knows about AMERICA and Americans doubts that. Consequently we must fight ultimately, unless we find and put into effect measures that will enable BRITAIN to win without our fighting. We have already gone far in this direction. We have declared that the fight that ENGLAND is making is our fight. We have likewise affirmed that the enemies she is fighting are our enemies. We have denounced without reserve Axis aggression, Axis faithlessness to treaties, Axis brutal and murderous disregard of international good faith, and we have said with an overwhelming public approval of this statement that we are in the fight to stay until victory for human liberty, for justice and for good faith is won.

We have made our productive facilities available to those who are fighting the Axis. We have loaned them much of our military equipment, although we have insufficient for our own defence. We have passed the Lease-lend Bill and appropriated seven billion dollars to implement that bill by an almost unanimous vote of our Congress. We have opened up our yards and docks for the repair of British men of war and merchantmen. We have assumed protection of GREENLAND. We have removed restrictions on American flagships sailing to zones where fighting is over, so that we might relieve BRITAIN of the burden of supplying the armies fighting in that theatre.

We have gone a long way, and all of it with the support of an overwhelming public opinion. Incidentally, the latest test of public opinion discloses the American nation to be approximately seventy per cent for aid to BRITAIN even at the risk of war. Having gone thus far, we cannot back down. There is no retracing our steps. We have committed ourselves in this world struggle.

If we should attempt to back down now, ENGLAND would go down to catastrophic defeat, and we would face a worldwide victorious GERMANY and her allies whom we should have to fight alone.

We have declared that the aggressor nations must not be permitted to win. We have irrevocably committed ourselves to see that this is prevented. We have put all of our resources into the scales to bring defeat to those who would rule the world by force. We have acknowledged that our destiny, just as much as the destiny of the BRITISH EMPIRE, and the ultimate destiny of the conquered peoples of the Low Countries, of SCANDINAVIA, of FRANCE and of the BALKANS are at stake.

Having gone thus far, we can only go on. Hitler cannot allow our war supplies and food to reach ENGLAND—he will be defeated if they do. We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic—we shall be beaten if they do. We must make our promise good to give aid to BRITAIN. We must see the job through. All of these is needed for our own safety and our future security. This is our fight. The American people have recognized the catastrophic quality of a totalitarian victory, and by overwhelming majority they have endorsed every step along the progress we have made to our present posture.

Proclaiming as we do our faith in the ultimate victory of good over evil, our devotion to the cause of human liberty, our century and a half of the pursuit of justice between men on terms of equality, we can no longer occupy the immoral and craven position of asking others to make all the sacrifice for this victory which we recognize as so essential to us. Our manhood and our self-respect demand that we shall assume our part of the burden.

APPENDIX.

THE LATEST SENSATION.

THE RUSSIAN DÉNOUEMENT.

For some weeks we have written and lectured about the possibility of war between Germany and Russia, a swift attack and a dash through South Russia towards the Caucusus and Iran being suggested as one of Hitler's second-best alternatives, if he cannot screw himself up to an invasion of Britain. Now it has happened, and yet another country, a country actually in fresh league with Germany, is suddenly to feel the horrid lash of mechanized Mars.

There seems to be only one thing certain about the affair, and that is that Hitler considers it axiomatic that he will conquer Russian resistance within a short space of time. He would never have taken on yet another Great Power at this stage otherwise. All the rest is imponderable. Stalin has exercised a censorship about U. S. S. R. affairs so expertly and for so long that it is impossible to size up even the main chances of the fight, let alone make any estimate of such details as objectives, directions, times, and so on. But the less-informed of our readers will possibly appreciate a suggestion of some of the factors in the affair, however diffident and vague they must be, so we summarise them in two classes, those that Appear More Than Probable, and those that May Or May Not Be So !

"PROBABILITIES"

1. Hitler has in mind a tremendous attack on the Near East, and upon India, in pursuance of his dream of destroying the Empire and cutting off supplies from his No. 1 Enemy, Britain.
2. Russia is an enormous country in area, with almost limitless resources in men and materials all the way from the Ukraine to Vladivostok, or Archangel to Baku. If, at the mouth of his lair, you have seized a bear by the ears, you can't afford to let go —wherever he drags you !
3. Political ideals in Great Britain and Russia have far from coincided in the past, but the present position looks better for us than it did when Hitler and Stalin hitched up together just before we went to war with Germany.
4. This Russo-German war is going to be an actual and not a make-believe war.
5. It therefore means, at least temporarily, a much greater "dispersal of force" by the Germans in the matter of mechanized and air forces.
6. As Mr. Churchill says, both we and America will help *any one* who is an enemy of Hitler's.

"POSSIBILITIES"

1. The Russians have a very large army, and a very large air force. They have also been paying far more attention to their fleet in the past few years than ever before, particularly in the matter of submarines.
2. Two successive agricultural and industrial 'Plans' may have made them a more efficient country. Certainly their armies have been well fed and paid. Moreover, the ordinary Russian soldier

fights well—if he is given the supplies to fight with and the leadership to fight under. Their High Command has had a chance of 'muscling-up' in the Finland campaign, and has probably been studying the science of modern war these last couple of years.

3. Much attention has been paid to mechanization of the forces, and development of new types of planes. No one seems to be able to guess at numbers, nor of the proportion of old to new types of planes or divisions.

What more is there to be usefully said at the moment? Japan is a ? Turkey is a ? The reaction among the ordinary people of Germany is a ? There is, however, a question to be asked. How long will certain people in India by obstruction of war effort, continue to assist a twenty-times perjured and inhuman swashbuckler, and the mesmerised, power-mad, cruelty-drunk hordes that follow him with tanks and tommy-guns for the field, and barbed wire and whips for the homes?

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

19—6—41 to 25—6—41.

The unexpected—or, was it the expected?—has happened. RUSSIA is at war with GERMANY. On Sunday, June 22, at 4 a. m. two hours before the formal declaration of war made by the German ambassador at Moscow, the Germans launched their attack on RUSSIA along a fifteen-hundred-mile front from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

It looked like a miracle. A little reflection, however, sufficed to show that it was the most natural thing in the world. The miracle occurred when the two countries signed a pact twenty-two months ago. It was an impossible combination; it would be easier for oil to mix with water than for National Socialist GERMANY to hit it off with Bolshevik RUSSIA. But the thing happened and one patiently waited to see the sequel.

It was a frankly opportunist alliance. Hitler was bent upon attacking the democracies and he did not want to have trouble on his eastern frontier. And all that RUSSIA was concerned about was to steer

clear of war. So they patched up an alliance of sorts; one may suppose that when the two countries swore eternal friendship, the ambassadors on either side had their tongues glued to their cheeks.

The pact and its breach tell their own tale. Hitler's perfidy stands revealed in all its nakedness. His one aim is to dominate the world, and if RUSSIA stands in the way of the attempted achievement of his aim, she must be wiped out. RUSSIA in her turn was prepared to stand aside so long as her interests were not touched, but peace at the sacrifice of national honour was not her policy by any means. The Soviet stands for realism in diplomatic affairs, and looks at things from what it calls an objective Marxist point of view. Pacts are good up to a point but if they are regarded as committing one to one-hundred per cent collaboration with the other side, the Russians have no use for them. This was a point which M. Litvinoff was in the habit of stressing.

So that it is not surprising to find RUSSIA taking a strong line when Hitler, presuming upon the pact, made impossible demands on her. She put her tail up and Hitler grew red in the face and decided to whip her off the premises. "*Cest animal est trés méchant; quand on l'attaque, il se defend*" as the French say. (This is a wicked animal; when attacked, it defends itself.)

Dictators, by all accounts, have no sense of humour; the amazing reversals of policy which we have seen happening in front of our eyes are inexplicable on any other basis. Hitler, in the old days, cursed the Bolsheviks by bell, book and candle; but when the Russo-German non-aggression pact of August 1939 and the frontier and friendship agreement of September of the same year were signed, he sang in another key. And now, he announces to an astounded but unbelieving world that his sole purpose in life is to rid humanity of the menace of Bolshevism. They say Hitler is an abstemious man; no wonder, seeing that his dietary is so largely composed of his own words, which he chews and masticates with infinite relish.

The war between RUSSIA and GERMANY is about the best thing that could have happened at this juncture. GERMANY will have to fight on two fronts now, and this involves a dispersion of energies. The Germans, it is said, are hoping for an early victory; their hopes may be justified, or, they may not. What is certain, however, is that by the time they come back from the eastern frontier licking their wounds,

they will have been so exhausted that they will not have the guts to face the pounding of the British. Apart from this, the Russo-German phase of the war adds automatically to the breathing-space which BRITAIN still requires to perfect her war machine. The stream of American supplies will have swollen to such an extent as to make BRITAIN overwhelmingly strong on land, sea and in the air.

And RUSSIA is by no means a negligible enemy. She has a formidable army, she has mobilised her immense natural resources, and her carefully carried out programme of mass-production of aeroplanes has given her a powerful air-arm.

Transport facilities which was the weakest link in the Soviet chain have since been vastly improved. The Red Army is said to be a magnificent force, extremely well-equipped, massive and with considerable striking power. RUSSIA's immense reserves of man-power and material alone are enough to make her formidable as an enemy. And the Russians have not been slow to learn either. It is said that they have several very secret types of bombers and fighters, which are a match for the strongest fighting force in the world. All this lends strength to the view which has received expression that GERMANY has no easy task before her.

And RUSSIA is not going to fight single-handed. The Prime Minister has declared that BRITAIN will give RUSSIA all the help that is humanly possible. This has been followed by an intensification of the bombing-raids of the R. A. F. over GERMANY, German-occupied FRANCE and the invasion ports. In fact, BRITAIN has launched a gigantic air offensive which may be expected to smash the Germans completely.

Nor is this all. British military and economic missions will soon be on their way to RUSSIA, and the closest collaboration in military affairs will be achieved. Mr. Roosevelt has come forward with a most generous offer of help. TURKEY, up to the moment of going to press, has not broken with RUSSIA, and there is no reason to suppose that she will go back upon her obligations, which she has given her word to BRITAIN she intends to respect.

An illuminating beam of light is thrown on the state of mind of Berliners by the BERLIN correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune.* They are said to be in a state of bewilderment. " The average citizen

is wondering when he was bunked and when he was debunked, and which one is happening to him now......They cannot see what the game is, or who has the ball."

News about the actual fighting is still rather meagre, but it is plain that the Red Army is at least giving as hot as it receives. The Germans have been attacking all along the eastern frontier, but their main drive is through the BALTIC STATES against LATVIA and LITHUANIA, with a view to cut off the Russians from the Baltic ports. The Rumanian army, assisted by German mechanised forces, have been operating from Northern BUKHOVINA and BESSARABIA, and have been meeting with fierce resistance. The Germans have occupied BREST LITOVSK but elsewhere they have been repulsed. The Russians have taken the offensive in South POLAND and have captured PRZEMYSL. They appear to have poured destruction on the enemy. Numerous German planes have been brought down, and as many as 300 German tanks have been destroyed. In the Bessarabian sector, the Red Army is strongly in possession of the eastern bank of the Pruth. The Russian air force have made several heavy bombing raids on enemy aerodromes in FINLAND.

R. A. F. Raids.—Mr. Churchill in his speech of June 22, affirmed the determination of BRITAIN " to bomb GERMANY by day, as by night, in ever increasing measure " and evidence of this determination has been provided by the devastating attacks which have been delivered by the R. A. F. Aerodromes, railway yards, and all kinds of military objectives have been subjected to an unceasing attack by our bombers protected by fighter squadrons. As a well-known commentator has said, " The Battle of BRITAIN looks like becoming the Battle of GERMANY before long."

The campaign in Syria.—Meanwhile, the campaign in SYRIA is being proceeded with. DAMASCUS has been captured. PALMYRA has fallen. MERJ AYOUM has been reoccupied by our forces and the VICHY troops are in full retreat. Our troops are within a few miles of BEIRUT. A vigorous air offensive is being kept up. The situation is best summed up by the fact that Herr Otto Abetz, the German ambassador in FRANCE has proceeded to BERLIN at the express request of the VICHY Government to report about " the exceptional deterioration " in the situation of the VICHY forces in SYRIA, following the fall of DAMASCUS.

Abyssinia.—The important Italian stronghold of GIMMA has been captured. 8,000 prisoners were taken including one Italian General. Indian troops, supported by patriot forces are steadily closing on the enemy. The conquest of ABYSSINIA is almost complete and Hailé Sélassie is coming into his own.

R. A. F. Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
16—6—41. (Monday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over the STRAITS of DOVER, ENGLISH CHANNEL and the FRENCH Coast.	...	...
	The Railway station and a large store house at BOULOGNE.	...	...
	Air fights and duels over the Channel and occupied FRANCE.	6 planes. 2 pilots safe.	11 planes.
EVENING :—			
	Enemy shipping in the CHANNEL.	...	...
	Military Objectives in the Northern FRANCE.	10 planes.	13 planes.
NIGHT :—			
	War Industries in COLOGNE, DUSSELDORF and DUISBERG.	...	Heavily damaged. Fires started.
	Docks at BOULOGNE.	...	...
	The harbour and Docks at DUNKIRK.	No loss.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Railways and aerodrome buildings at RAYAK.	...	Big explosions caused.
	A concentration of enemy mechanical transport near KUNEITIRAH.	...	1 plane ; many others damaged.
	Aerial fights over SYRIA.	9 planes.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Support to ground operations carried out by British troops.	...	...
	Aerial fight over many places in CYRENAICA.	...	2 planes ; several others damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
16—6—41. (Monday.)—*cont.*			
	The harbour area at BENGHAZI	...	...
	Landing grounds at DERNA and EL-GAZALA.		
	Motor transport vehicles in CYRENAICA.	6 planes.	Set on fire.
17—6—41. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and northern FRANCE.	...	...
	Enemy Shipping in the CHANNEL.	...	One ship sunk.
	An industrial plant near BETHUNE	...	Directly hit and fires started.
	Aerial fights over the CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.	10 planes	16 planes.
	NIGHT :—		
	The Industrial areas in COLOGNE and DUSSELDORF.	...	Fires and explosions started.
	Docks at ROTTERDAM, OSTEND, BOULOGNE and CHERBOURG.	...	... Damaged.
	Enemy shipping in the North SEA.	1 plane.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Support to British ground forces.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy motor transport in the EL-GAZALA area.	...	Very heavy damage.
	Enemy armoured cars and transport in the SIDI OMAR area.	...	20 Vehicles destroyed
18—6—41. (Wednesday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Docks, wharves and oil storage tanks at LE HAVRE.	...	...
	An Enemy supply ship escorted by destroyers near the FRENCH Coast.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
18—6—41.	**(Wednesday.)**—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	EVENING :—		
	Offensive sweep over the STRAITS of DOVER and Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	NIGHT :—		
	Ports and Naval bases in North-west GERMANY including BREMEN.	...	Damaged.
	The Naval Base and the three German warships at BREST.	...	Pounded.
	SYRIA.		
	VICHY positions near DAMASCUS.	...	...
	Shipping in the harbour at BEIRUT.	...	...
	Aerial fight over SOUEIDA.	...	2 planes.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Patrols over the Western Desert.	...	...
	The landing grounds at DERNA and EL GAZALA.	...	1 plane.
	Shipping and the harbour buildings at BENGAZI.	...	A number of fires started.
19—6—41.	**(Thursday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	NIGHT :—		
	Industrial targets in COLOGNE and DUSSELDORF.	2 planes.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Supporting the British ground operations.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy motor vehicles in Western Desert.	...	...
	The harbour at BENGHAZI.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
20—6—41. (Friday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	An Enemy supply ship in the CHANNEL	No loss.	Sunk.
	An enemy patrol vessel off DEN-HELDER.		
	NIGHT :—		
	The German Naval Base and shipyards at KIEL.	...	...
	The Docks at DUNKIRK and BOULOGNE.	1 plane.	...
	SYRIA.		
	Armoured fighting vehicles on the DAMASCUS—BEIRUT road.	...	Many vehicles destroyed.
	Motor transport concentrations in DAMASCUS area.	...	...
	Shipping in BEIRUT harbour ...	...	A submarine hit.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The aerodrome and aircraft on the ground at MISURATA.	...	3 planes set on fire and others damaged. Fires started.
	Full support to British ground forces	No loss.	...
21—6—41. (Saturday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE. **Aerodromes** at ST. OMER and BOULOGNE.	... 4 planes.	... 28 planes.
	NIGHT :—		
	The Industrial towns of COLOGNE and DUSSELDORF. **The Docks** at DUNKIRK and BOULOGNE.	... 1 plane.	...
	Offensive sweeps over enemy aerodromes in Northern FRANCE.	...	Heavy damage.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
22—6—41. (Sunday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over the Northern coast of FRANCE and the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	...	...
	The marshalling yard at HAZEBROUCK	...	...
	Aerial battles over Northern FRANCE	1 plane.	27 planes. Many others damaged.
	SYRIA.		
	The harbour and shipping at BEIRUT.	...	A destroyer hit; a ship set on fire, heavily damaged.
	VICHY motor transport vehicles on the DAMASCUS-BEIRUT road.	...	Many vehicles destroyed.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	A convey of enemy merchant vessels escorted by destroyers off the TRIPOLITANIAN Coast.	...	1 big ship damaged; many other small ships also damaged.
	EASTERN GERMANY (By Russian planes).		
	Many places in East PRUSSIA.	...	...

ENEMY Raids over BRITAIN and BRITISH Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
17—6—41. (Tuesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A few places in the East coast of ENGLAND.	...	...
	AFRICA.		
	Various aerial fights over CYRENAICA.	2 planes.	...

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
18—6—41. (Wednesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	Few points in East ANGLIA and **one point** in East MIDLANDS.	1 plane.	Damage slight and casualties few.
	EGYPT.		
	ALEXANDRIA.	...	One killed.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.	1 plane ; 2 others damaged.	No damage at all.
19—6—41. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	Widely separated points in ENGLAND.	1 plane.	Very slight damage.
20—6—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	Isolated points in ENGLAND.	...	No casualty and only slight damage.
	One point in SCOTLAND.	...	...
	EGYPT.		
	ALEXANDRIA.	...	Slight damage to property.
21—6—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	A town in South ENGLAND ; a few places in South East ENGLAND and SCOTLAND.	... 4 planes.	A few casualties and slight damage.
22—6—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON (only an alert).	...	...
	An area on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.	...	...
	A coastal town in North-east ENGLAND.	...	Damage to houses.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
22—6—41.	**(Sunday.)**—*cont.*		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	Malta.	7 planes.	1 plane; but the pilot is safe.
	RUSSIA.		
	Aerodromes in Western RUSSIA ...	76 planes.	...
23—6—41.	**(Monday).**		
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	South-east ENGLAND and east ANGLIA.	...	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	A British convoy off the South-east coast of ENGLAND.	...	No damage at all.
	EGYPT.		
	ALEXANDRIA.	...	A few civilians killed.
	RUSSIA.		
	Troops, Aerodromes, populated areas, and military objectives in RUSSIA.	52 planes.	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE YELLOW PERIL. There have been some odd things to note lately about JAPAN. We suddenly made an exchange-agreement with them, for one thing—though that is pretty obviously merely a temporary affair to facilitate trade so necessary to both sides so long as there is no open war between them. I was referring rather to the absence of news about the Axis No. 3—a sort of slackening of tension and of speculation, even to the complete omission of JAPAN as a subject in Mr. Roosevelt's recent speech, though he did warmly praise the Chinese. Mr. Matsuoka on his part, declined to comment on the speech instead of letting out his usual flood of high-sounding, minatory platitudes. Then we hear of Axis diplomats suddenly beginning a round of visits to the Japanese Foreign Minister.........and nothingness......! Then the Japanese radio in *German* announces that JAPAN will support GERMANY if AMERICA enters the war.........but keeps complete

silence on the same subject in its messages to BRITAIN or INDIA! Again, do you remember the proud defiance announced by the Japs to our Navicert system? They, certainly, would *never* apply for a permit! But they have—and continue to do so! And now, THAILAND has just applied for oil supplies from BRITAIN!

All very odd. The only explanation of this sudden diffidence among the war-mongers of NIPPON, is that like ITALY, JAPAN made her kowtows to GERMANY last summer, because they thought that BRITAIN was down and out. They have now realised their miscalculation, and while still perfectly willing to jackal for a victorious GERMANY, *when* the victory has been won, they hesitate when they are called on to start looking for that victory themselves.

* * * *

The Hun and North Africa. In a recent number we published a despatch to an English newspaper about German penetration in NORTH AFRICA which, though circumstantial, was so hardly credible that we advised readers to take it *cum grano salis*. It seems that that correspondent knew his job, though, for there are now official admissions of the truth of most of what we published. As long ago as last September, the DAKAR episode proved that German designs ranged at least as far as that debatable port, for the opposition to De Gaulle's landing was admitted to be German-inspired, and ever since then, as VICHY grew feebler and feebler, the familiar technique has been in evidence all round the north-west African coast.

The objects of Hun infiltration seem fairly clear. They want:—

(*a*) to prepare bases for future operations in the Battle of the Atlantic, against both BRITAIN and the AMERICAS;

(*b*) to have the means of squeezing VICHY harder and harder, and to render Weygand comparatively powerless;

(*c*) to put a stopper on General De Gaulle's increasing success in Equatorial AFRICA, and

(*d*) to keep up those supplies from AFRICA to MARSEILLES which VICHY pretended were for the French people, but which have been steadily handled by German controls—in short commandeered for German use.

Of course the game began with "Axis Commissions"—at first largely Italian, but these commissions are now well established in municipal and port controls at BIZERTA, ALGIERS, ORAN, KONITRA and CASABLANCA—while German detachments are now *known* to be present at RABAT, AGADIR, SAFI and MARRAKESH.

Well, well, as long as we know, perhaps it doesn't matter much but the facts hardly increase our respect and liking for our late allies!

* * * * *

ONLY SECOND BEST. As I suggested in a recent lecture here, Hitler seems to have four second-best alternatives—his first choice, nay obsession, namely the invasion of BRITAIN being still denied him—one of them being, as suggested above, a penetration through SPAIN (who could hardly resist though they MIGHT impede him a bit) via ALGIERS and MOROCCO to DAKAR.

The other three are (or were, in the case of the first!)

(i) Occupation in forse of SYRIA and IRAQ via CRETE and CYPRUS, or perhaps via TURKEY.

(ii) Connected, or even simultaneous, thrusts from LIBYA into EGYPT.

(iii) A dash for the oil of the Caucusus, IRAN and IRAQ, to say nothing of the rich grain lands of South RUSSIA, or even the UKRAINE, by an invasion of RUSSIA herself.

All these, or anyone or two of them, have been on the cards for some time. IRAQ and SYRIA have not fallen to Hitler nor has SPAIN yet been 'invaded'. 'Pacts' with TURKEY, and with RUSSIA (?) are temporary diplomatic, not military, triumphs; it is still very much too hot, both climatically and figuratively for much success to be hoped for against General Wavell in EGYPT, and for once Englishmen and Hitler seem to have the same hope, namely that he actually *will* try to invade BRITAIN!

In other words, we are getting into the *second half of the year after the one* in which he promised his people victory and peace, and he has nothing much to show them beyond the prospect of longer hours, shorter belts, and fuller hospitals, while "time like an ever rolling stream"—to say nothing of AMERICA—mounts swiftly up against him.

NOTE:—Immediately after thinking all this out, one is confronted with a German invasion of RUSSIA! Really Hitler makes things very difficult for editors, but at least one of the horses we backed gets a place!

* * * * *

WILD HITTING. Wider grows the circle of cities who now know what it is to be bombed from the air. From NARVIK to BASRA, from DUBLIN to ALEXANDRIA, they know, and when will that grim education spread from CYPRUS to KARACHI, or HANOI to MADRAS?

At the moment, however, there seems little point in bombing ALEXANDRIA, except to kill a few hundred civilians and empty the hotels and caravanserais. True, the British fleet lies up there, in part, and more attacks must be expected, but ALEXANDRIA is by no means the only Eastern Mediterranean harbour which can shelter our ships, though it may be the best protected by A. A. batteries, the Fleet's own guns, and a considerable force of fighters (day and night) to leap up to engage the hated enemy.

HAIFA is a good harbour, for instance, where both repairs and fuel may be had. We captured DAMASCUS yesterday, so that it shouldn't be long before such useful harbours as BEIRUT, TRIPOLI and LATAKIA are in our hands, while MALTA still stands dauntlesss to house and protect our light, fast craft on their lawful occasions.

* * * * *

SYRIA. Mention of DAMASCUS makes me wonder how much the average reader knows about the strange country of which DAMASCUS is the capital. As we move into occupation, we take tremendous pains to make it clear that we do not want the place ourselves *as long as no enemy has it*—and no wonder! Here are a few gazetteer statistics.

The population, of about three and a quarter million people, is divided into some eight sections with separate historic and religious traditions and about as many ambitions! These are the main divisions. (i) Sunni Muslims, far the largest section, some 2 million people. (ii) The Druses, an independent sect of Muslims founded by a Fatimid Caliph of EGYPT in about 1050 A. D., inhabiting the wild country of the JEBEL DRUSE, and numbering over 130,000 fanatical independents. (iii) About quarter of a million Christians of earlier extraction, called Maronites, who live in the mountains north of LEBANON. (iv) Another non-comformist Muslim sect of 275,000 people, who live in and about the port of LATAKIA. (v) 150,000 Armenian refugees from TURKEY after the last war. (vi) 280,000 Greek Christians (mainly Arab by race). (vii) 165,000 Shia Muslims. (viii) Nearly 200,000 other Christian bodies, including Assyrians and Chaldeans from IRAQ.

Nor is the Government of the country very homogeneous! There are two Republics, the Lebanese Republic (half the country from Palestine northwards, with BEIRUT as its capital, the oil port of TRIPOLI, and the airport of RAYAK); and the Syrian Republic, run from DAMASCUS, but containing three areas which all have certain degrees of autonomy, the JEBEL DRUSE, LATAKIA, and the JEZYIEH up in the north-east.

No, as long as no enemy overruns them, these folk can safely be left to play with self-determination. Look at the mess the French made of their mandate !

In 1919, SYRIA became, like MESOPOTAMIA, an A Class mandate. By 1926, the French had to provoke a serious revolt, and bombed and wrecked DAMASCUS.

Before that, in 1921, they had already had to cede the fertile CILICIA, to TURKEY.

In 1939, they further ceded to TURKEY the Province (and valauable port) of ALEXANDRETTA.

And now the French have withdrawn from the League of Nations altogether, and have no earthly right even to a foothold in the country. A sorry story in all conscience.

* * * *

THE TURKISH 'PACT' Pacts are supposed to be bonds between friends. How many nations who have signed pacts with GERMANY can Hitler count on as his friends? Not TURKEY, certainly, nor RUSSIA, nor any nation so physically fearful of Nazi land-might as these two countries have reason to be. No, pacts are simply means of gaining breathing space, to be torn up as soon as the pressure is relieved; and when they are 'non-aggression' pacts or 'trade pacts' there is really not much harm in them for us, though we would rather the victims stood on their own feet and openly threw in their lot with the Allies.

NOTE :—Within an hour of completing this sentence the news of GERMANY'S declaration of war against RUSSIA was received. The Ten—certainly, and Fifteen—probably—Years' Pact signed between Hitler and Stalin in July 1939 has had a run of 22 months!

It is difficult to see how TURKEY, semi-surrounded and incompletely equipped, could do anything else than sign. And now the screw is being put on RUSSIA, with the suggestion that as TURKEY is now about to join the Axis (which she isn't) Stalin had better hand over wheat, oil and industries lest GERMANY use free passage through TURKEY to the BAKU oil wells.

It was the Italian press that first put this about, and they got a wigging from GERMANY, but there is no doubt that the messages were inspired, and it is just a question of how far Stalin thinks he can go without raising the ire of the people who put him in his dictatorial position.

Meanwhile everywhere, in MOSCOW, ANKARA, VICHY and MADRID, it is the same sordid tale of blackmail, bribery and other chicanery. But of all the 'conversations' now humming and buzzing, before the great world-battle really begins, we would most like to know the contents of that letter which Mr. Winant took from Mr. Churchill to President Roosevelt. What we do know is (*a*) Mr. Roosevelt's opinion of Hitler and Nazism ; (*b*) that the document was fully detailed and very secret, and (*c*) that Hitler can no longer go marauding in, say, the Red Sea, or along French North AFRICA, *without "attacking the United States"*.

* * * *

PUDUKKOTTAI PLAYS UP AGAIN. We offer to our comrades-in-arms (civil !), the War Fund Entertainment Committee, our sincere congratulations on the outcome of the State Raffle which was drawn in the Town Hall this week, amid great enthusiasm, in His Highness the Raja's presence. They were in every sense a *working committee*, and the sale of 112,000 one rupee tickets in just over three months, when there were already several big raffles in the field in the near neighbourhood, is a sign of their powers both of organisation and of endurance, as well as of the fact that the hearts of Pudukkottians, and, particularly of the Nagarathar community, are in the right place. The State's war contributions have thus been swelled by some Rs. 60,000 to the satisfactory total of something like three lakhs of rupees, and this is not the end if we are to judge by the general approval which greeted His Highness's special injunction to his subjects to carry on the good work. "We are not to stop here", he said—and we won't !

As for the W. I. B., we were delighted when the W. F. E. C. decided to give us 10 % of the lakh at which they aimed. We are even more gratified that a most welcome contribution of Rs. 10,000 has now actually materialised, and we shall do our best to see that the W. F. E. C.'s comradely gift is properly laid out in the enterprise which we all have at heart, namely, the eradication of the most fearful Evil that has ever menaced the whole human race at once.

HOTELS IN AIR RAIDS.

MORE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF A *BLITZ*.

[*Being extracts from a letter just received from an A. F. S. lady in London, who had previously contributed to our columns*].

Meanwhile London has had a couple more blitzes, the first of which besides causing a lot of casualties at the Café de Paris, including the band leader and Poulsen, the general manager, and most of the band, and various other places, paid a visit to Stanhope Gardens. There were 5 bombs, the first fell in Clareville Grove, (just behind), the second on Nos. 39 and 40 Stanhope Gardens, causing the backs to collapse completely, the next two on the two corners of Gloucester Road, and the last on Ashburn Place. 43 was frightfully lucky. Considering how near they fell, all we had was all the windows smashed except mercifully the dining room, lounge, one bathroom and one lavatory. Tiles were off the bathrooms' roof, and the ceilings so badly damaged you can't use the light as the insulation is unsafe. There is an enormous crack, and I am sure the whole thing will collapse on me one day when I am in the bath !

For 10 days I dressed, undressed, and slept in my room without a square inch of anything in my windows ! It was bitterly cold and a north-easterly gale swept through the room at about 90 miles an hour. I suppose one should be thankful it didn't rain or snow ! Of course I haven't told Mother how near the bombs were, and when we passed there in a bus yesterday I engaged her in conversation so she shouldn't look too closely !

I am jolly glad I wasn't there when it all happened. It was at about 8 o'clock and they were sitting in the lounge ; the door and French windows burst open, and masses of soot came down the chimney all over the room. The Es. were in the office and as their window crashed in they dived under the table.

I was of course at the fire station, and a colleague and I had got permission to go to a dance, the first time either of us since the war had even asked for special leave while on duty. We were only given leave because the dance being near we could go in uniform and get back in five minutes "if anything happened". It was the first real *blitz* on London for two months, just our luck. We left our partners high and dry and ran back at breakneck speed, and continued to work at high pressure until 3 a. m. The mess all over 43 was indescribable, broken glass and plaster all over everything, I continued to find glass splinters in everything for days and days.

We have had another London *blitz* since the one I mentioned, but nowhere near here. However all our appliances and men were out at the fires for hours and hours, and we were kept very busy of course. However in spite of this we have had a few Fire Service dances, held of course with risk of complete cancellation possibly even after one has started! This has actually never happened so we count ourselves very lucky. We have had two here, and I went to an awfully good one at my original sub-station last night. They are now in palatial quarters compared with the slum we lived in when I was there, and it was an extremely good party. Two of us "girls" from here were allowed to go to it on the big "Fire Engine", a thing which is strictly prohibited by all the rules and regulations, but a lot of things are not seen in the blackout, It was a big thrill, (also a big squash as we were on it in addition to the outsize crew!), the only one that remains now is for me to drive it, and I rather fancy that may be wangled before the war is over! (not to a fire of course, but when going to get petrol or something of the kind!) I will certainly let you know if it ever comes off; one of the drivers is one of my special friends, of course if he were suddenly moved to another station, which they are so fond of doing at a moment's notice, I should have to start digging myself in all over again.

Another thing which I find very trying is the noises you have to listen to after a raid in your close neighbourhood. First of all for several days you have the teeth-setting-on-edge noise of spades scraping up broken glass and other debris off the roads and pavements and throwing it into dust carts. You simply can't imagine a more earsplitting noise. Simultaneously with that you have incessant hammering, while everybody is getting something put over their windows to keep out the elements. The so-called "first aid" stuff they have eventually put over our windows at 43 is brown boarding on the bottom sash, and a sort of white material over the top of the sash, which lets in a certain amount of light. Neither of them can you see through, and both of them let in cold winds, but do not ventilate!

Plain chocolate, which the general public just can't obtain is nearly always on sale in the canteen here, owing to "services priority". Thank goodness, as it is the most sustaining thing to eat on night watch. There are no night meals, of course. On the whole I do very well for rations, as all canteen food is in additon to our rations, all of which the Es. draw for me.

NEXT DOOR TO GREATER GERMANY.

by

James Landsdale Hodson.

Mr. Hodson is a British novelist and journalist who visited Dover the other day. Here is his account of what he saw in this ancient coastal town, which, of all the towns in Great Britain is nearest to enemy territory and enemy air attacks. Dover is also the centre of that comparatively small area exposed to long-range artillery fire from the German heavy guns mounted on the French coast.

From the front door of Dover castle, you can see the Greater Reich quite clearly, for that I suppose is what Boulogne, and Calais may for the moment be called.

With an Artillery Officer's telescope, you can tell the time on Calais clock tower. The French coast was extraordinarily clear when I was there a day or two ago. it looked nothing like twenty miles, more like four or five. The intervening sea was clear, except for a few British ships moving slowly along, as quietly as though no war darkened the horizon. The barrage baloons overhead glinted in the sun, turning when the wind changed like ships swinging to an anchor, no sound broke the stillness. That is how it is for hours at a time, deep brooding quietness. It reminded me of the Maginot line before the invasion of the Low countries, just over a year ago. The same lovely weather though this Spring is a few weeks later, that brooding quietness, is broken only intermittently, very often on a Sunday, occasionally on a week-day about 2.30 in the afternoon, the quietness is rent by a terrific explosion. Out of the sky, without any warning of any sort, a German shell drops, you don't hear it coming, the familiar shell whine isn't there, it simply arrives, dropping almost vertically, 85° to be precise, and explodes. At once the warning siren is sounded, followed after a short pause by another, this to distinguish the shell warning from the bomb warning which is a signal siren. Then the police put out written notices "Shelling in progress" on the roads leading into Dover. Between one shell and the next there is usually an interval of seven minutes, sometimes only a few shells come over, but the policemen say the number was very considerable in the Dover area one morning, and all of them have been as high as nine miles on their horrible journey over. After the first shell has dropped, you can watch for the flash at Cap Gris Nez, count ninety and know the shell will explode at any moment.

Now I in common with most British people, have been in a considerable number of bombings since this war started, over a hundred at any rate. Nearly always you get a warning, you hear the aircraft, or the siren goes,

not always of course, but usually, but to live in Dover, knowing you will certainly not get a warning of the first shell, would you would think be nerve-racking. But there are thousands of citizens living in Dover to-day, women wheel their babies about the streets in perambulators, you see young people shopping, buses run in and out as regularly as they do in our other towns, the Churches which have not been bombed out of action are still holding services, the town council meets in the ancient Town Hall with its coats of arms of William Pitt, the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Wellington, the Hippodrome gives Music Hall shows regularly, the train service to Dover is quite good. This all sounds a trifle strange, I expect, to you. Now to account for it. If invasion is attempted, (personally I think it will be), Dover will be bang in the front line, the guns Mr. Hitler has installed at Cap Gris Nez will come into action and an attempt will be made to isolate Dover by putting a barrage round it. I daresay they entertain hopes of capturing it, otherwise they would have bombarded it far more. Most of their artillery fire in fact has so far been.........and yet compared with towns like Plymouth, and Liverpool, and London, and Clydeside, casualties have been light, by the grim standard we are slowly growing accustomed to. One Major on the Intelligence Staff said to me :—"Dover is home from home compared with a few other places I know". And the Police Inspector's wife said to her husband, having returned to Dover from an evacuation area : "If you can show me anything worse here than where I have come from, I'll go away again". But he couldn't. But there's another reason apart from the courage of the people, why so many remain, and that is the excellent system of shelters dug into the chalk cliffs and hills. Some of those shelters have sixty feet of chalk over them, and a few have 160 feet over them. Not even man's desperate ingenuity has yet got the power of inventing an explosive that will penetrate that distance. In a few weeks' time there are going to be enough of those shelters to hold everybody living in Dover. Night and day the work of tunnelling goes on, done by auxiliary firemen and rescue squads in the intervals of their other life-saving work. One tunnel is half a mile long and many of them are already fitted with electric light, water, cooking facilities and sleeping bunks. Not all the shelters are new however, 'some were dug by French prisoners in Napoleon's time'. That is true also of some of the tunnelling under Dover.

I slept in the castle as the guest of the garrison. Canons of Nelson's day stand at the door, the ante-room walls are hung with old sabres and lances and breastpla es; we dined at a mahogany table between thirty and forty feet long. But there was a modern note right up to date, struck by a notice on the Officers' Board, it said, "Other Officers must not be invited to lunch unless they bring their haversack rations with them."

And there was another very modern note as I was going in to breakfast, I suddenly heard the harsh rata-tat of machine guns and the bark of our anti-aircraft guns. I got to the front door just in time to see the third of three of our barrage balloons coming down in flames, as a piece of colour a most picturesque sight, flame, scarlet, and black. Where the other two balloons had been, a great column of dark smoke still in the atmosphere from earth to sky. What had happened was, that on this cloudy morning two Messerschmidts had dived out of obscurity, popped off the balloons, and fled. Not a very difficult thing to do, though sometimes it costs them dear; there was an occasion when they lost 11 aircraft doing it. We can put up fresh balloons inside an hour, but winding in the cable is as troublesome a job as you can imagine, if you get tangled up with chimney pots. These balloons can be capricious, they break adrift sometimes. Where two were floating, there was an occasion when next time the balloons started drifting the number had grown to three. There they were, quite solemn and sedate, having added one to their number. It turned out the cable had dragged, and caught again at this precise spot. Stranger than that, a balloon one day, drifted out to sea. Now carelessness was suspected on the crew's part, and a court of enquiry was held twenty-four hours later. But while the court was still sitting, the balloon returned, drifted back to its identical home and was secured. That court of enquiry must have thought somebody or something inanimate was pulling its leg!

I mentioned a moment ago, the capriciousness of balloons, but it is closely rivalled and beaten by the caprice of a draught of shells and bombs. One shell in Dover blew the boots off a woman's feet, hardly injuring her at all. There has been another case when a man had his trousers blown off without being much hurt. Indeed the grotesque and the comic run alongside in war constantly. Our guns, because of course we have guns which could give a very forcible answer to Mr. Hitler, and our men who have given some of them odd and curious names; "Scene shifter" is one, and 'Peacemaker' another; a third is called 'Winnie' after the Prime Minister, and I have no doubt its bark and bite will equal his own. There are others besides these which can drop a shell weighing a ton in Calais, and closer than Calais, as expertly as you and I can throw a stone across the sea. And we've other devices for dealing with Mr. Hitler's hosts that I cannot tell you about.

But I can speak about people who are picking up airmen who bail out into the sea. From dawn to dusk those boats are out, each at his separate rendezvous, waiting to make a head-long dash to save those precious fliers. One Royal Air Force pilot they have now saved three times; another whom they saved last September they pulled out again a week or two later, but alas this time he was dead.

There is not much doubt they are going to have a lot of work to do in the near future, when once again the sky is scrawled with those circles and ovals of twisting white smoke which tell where aircraft have drawn symbols which make no words but which tell clearer than words, a fight to a finish. Happily our airmen now have attached to their lifebelts a new device which makes something akin to a rubber boat, into which they can climb out of the water.

Dover, like most areas concerned with war, is a terrible mixture. A war artist said to me: "I find it difficult to get my stuff, or to get the right atmosphere, because everything is so quiet and beautiful." Well, you can say that, and the next moment death and mutilation may drop on you. And from that destruction and horror, you may go an hour or two later, to the Music Hall and find yourself in an atmosphere that is almost mid-Victorian, green plush in the circles, a band composed of piano, cornet, and violin, and a female impersonator singing, "I've been a Wak, I've been a Wren, I've done my bit for all the men", as he did in this same theatre 25 years ago, while our lads in khaki, and navy blue, and airforce blue, laugh their heads off, and yell the chorus of "You make me love you", as we their fathers did.

Well, there's something permanent there, that there is in Dover itself. The Dover Patrol in the last war was famous, and again at Dunkirk, Dover stepped into the limelight. To this harbour, as many as 360 different ships of all sizes came day after day, and many of the same citizens who lived through the Dunkirk evacuation, and indeed who lived in Dover throughout the last war, are still there. "Come what come may" said an old jeweller to me, "here I stop". There he stays notwithstanding that neither he nor anybody else knows when a shell will drop. I don't pretend everybody is of the stuff that he is, but a large proportion are, far too large a proportion to yield any comfort to our enemies. There's nothing in Dover to please Mr. Hitler. He'll find that out in due course. Goodnight!

MEN INTO SWINE.

CIRCE'S ROD UP TO DATE.

Admiral Darlan has recently been saying some very bitter things about Great Britain. The man who just over a year ago was our ally tries to prove how much better it is for France now to co-operate with the enemy. One wonders if Admiral Darlan is being quite frank if he or any other Frenchman honestly believes it will be better if Germany were to win. These are the questions to which Colin Coote of " The Times " now gives an answer.

THE KNOCK-OUT. This is a trying moment for all who love France, and those who love France are not only Frenchmen. They were puzzled by the capitulation of France and of so much of the French Empire a year ago, but they thought, they hoped, that as time went on, the stunning effect of the blow would pass. It would have been foolish indeed to hope that the mainland of France would make some effort to throw off the German yoke. Successful rebellions could happen in the days of the muskets. They cannot happen in the day of the machine gun. But it was not impossible to hope that particularly in the French Empire, where there was no German occupation and no chance of any swift German occupation, that it would rise, co-operation with the enemy would be refused ; and even if open co-operation with the British was still impossible, action against them would be obstructed. Instead of progress towards co-operation with us, we have seen progress towards co-operation with Germany.

THE FELL WAND. Please get it firmly in your minds that this catering towards Germany is only the official French attitude. There is overwhelming evidence that the mass of the French people would be horrified and indignant if they thought that this super-capitulation were deliberate. But they are not allowed to know about it. They are told only what concessions that the Germans are making, not what new surrenders are being made to the Germans. And in tribute to their dislike of co-operation with Germany, they are subjected to a daily flood of lies about the British. Nonetheless, it is sufficiently puzzling that this should be even the official attitude, but I am going to try and shed some light upon it. I shall have to go some way back, for the causes of astonishing events are generally cumulative.

A LITTLE HISTORY. An intelligent and spirited people does not suddenly become a dull and spiritless people. The first fact that I must recall is that France did not have too good an

experience of democracy during recent years. The French had a succession of weak and ephemeral Governments, politics and many politicians had an unsavoury reputation. These defects rose out of the particular kind of democracy prevalent in France. They are not an essential part of democracy. But they gave many honest people a prejudice against democracy, and not a few slick politicians the idea that they would get on better if democracy were abolished. Therefore quite a few people in the Vichy Government have no prejudice whatever against the Nazi or Fascist system. They rather admire it. They call it order. They swallow the stuff which Hitler ladled out for years about being a bulwark against Communism. On the whole, they are more frightened of Left Wing Frenchmen than of Nazi Germans.

ANGLO PHOBES.

These French Nazis are also the core of the anti-British section of French people, but they are by no means the whole of it. In their distrust of Great Britain, they are reinforced by all those who think that Great Britain let down France between the two wars, that Great Britain allowed or encouraged Germany to rearm, and that Great Britain gave very little practical support to France after war had been declared. I am afraid we must add those French who did not understand why the British put out of action part of the French fleet, and those who suspect that if the British win this war they will again make a soft peace, and allow the Germans to arm again in another two years. You may find it hard to believe that there are not a few Frenchmen who view without any fear the prospect of Great Britain and Germany tearing each other to pieces, because they think that France would then be stronger relatively to both and able to assert her independence of both. This is, of course, about the worst case of wishful thinking since 1918, and there have been many bad cases.

WISHFUL THINKING.

But by far the strongest motive of those agreeing to present co-operation with Germany is their conviction that Germany will win. This conviction has clearly moved even Marshal Pétain to agree to Admiral Darlan's policy. This is what he is reported to have said in answer to American remonstrances: "The British are being magnificent, but it is all folly." There you have the explanation in a nutshell. Marshal Pétain says to the British, "I admire the fight you are putting up, but you will be defeated, and therefore you are fools not to do what I did, ask for peace." This advice shows a record misconception of the British character. We are not impressed by the argument that because other people have been beaten we must be beaten too. But if Marshal Pétain thinks that we must be beaten, then it is easier to see why he is readier to make concessions to Germany. If France helps, she may get a reward from victorious Germany. If France,

hinders, she will only share our fate, and her servitude will be even worse than at present. Meanwhile, what can she hope to get now by helping? In the first place, the gradual release of some of the million and a half French prisoners in Germany. We must not under-rate the power of this blackmailing counter in German hands. A million and a half sons, brothers, husbands, fathers,—it is a formidable weapon in Hitler's hands. In the second place, Marshal Pétain gets some work for French factories. That again is a weighty consideration, if it were not outweighed by the fact that the work is work for Germany, not for France. There is no doubt very heavy unemployment in France, particularly in the towns and cities, and, so the argument runs, men must live. Lastly, Marshal Pétain may get easier communications between occupied and unoccupied France. That again is a matter of considerable importance. For example I myself know of a case where a wife could not get to see her mortally wounded husband before he died. Apparently Marshal Pétain is not going to get the return of his government to Paris, but he gets something.

THE PRICE. What, however, does he give? Not so long ago, he said that it was a matter of honour for France to do nothing against her former allies. Not so long ago, General Weygand said that the French Empire would be defended against all comers. Now this does not square with reports of Admiral Darlan's negotiations with the Germans. The Admiral has said that the Germans have not asked France to make war. No, but they have asked him to make war materials for their use, to allow German aeroplanes to use Syrian aerodromes, to send French war material to the German party in Iraq, to surrender a large part of the goods brought into unoccupied French ports, to allow a swarm of German agents into French North Africa. It may even be that they have asked him to allow the passage of German reinforcements to Libya, through Tunisian waters, and to extend the area of German occupation along the Pyrenees, an obvious threat to Gibraltar. Moreover, though Admiral Darlan is the first to complain that Great Britain was unready for war, he now accuses her of having started it, and contrasts German generosity with British lack of consideration.

COUNTER-CHARM. It may be that most of this is the small change of bargaining with the Germans. It may be that Marshal Pétain says in private that he cannot help himself, but Admiral Darlan apparently does not say so. But if this is true, neither can the British Government help taking measures against this help to Germany. Any Government which allows the strategical position of its forces to be compromised, or in blunter terms, allows its men to be killed without trying to counteract French co-operation with Germany, would not last and

would not deserve to last a day. We have therefore been forced to say that we will attack the enemy wherever he may be found. We cannot allow the enemy to say, "I am immune from attack so long as I am in French waters or on French territory". The task of beating the Germans is not so easy that we can allow them areas of sanctuary. This war is not a ball game. We must expect that those at present in control of official Vichy policy will strive desperately to misrepresent our actiors and attitudes. Admiral Darlan is at it already. He said last Saturday that even if the British won, the position of France would be only that of a second-rate continental dominion. This seems to mean that France must choose between British and German domination, and ought to choose German domination. That is not true. A British victory would mean that France regains her unfettered independence and all her territory. A German victory would mean nothing of the kind. Admiral Darlan says that when we bomb Axis ships in French ports and when we stop French ships laden with goods for Germans, it is piracy. What about the 200 thousand tons of British and Allied ships which he has detained in French ports since the capitulation? Isn't that burglary? Surely, if French ships are used for Germany, they are in fact German ships, not French ships and not even neutral ships. So long as there was even the remotest hope or chance that French ships were being used to supply only the needs of unoccupied France, the British pursued a policy of great restraint in applying the blockade to French commerce. But to-day I am reluctantly convinced that Admiral Darlan and his like have changed sides to what they think will be the winning side. The sooner we prove them wrong, the sooner others who wish and work for the victory which will be ours and theirs will be able to make themselves heard. They exist already, for nothing is more clear than the trend of Admiral Darlan's policy except his extreme nervousness about how it will be received by the French people. They did not like the Bordeaux capitulation last June. They hate the Vichy capitulation to-day.

AN UP TO THE MINUTE DESPATCH.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR.

The Manchester Guardian Diplomatic Correspondent wrote on June 12:—

THERE are signs that a vital stage in German–Russian relations is approaching if it has not already come. Germany needs from Russia more than a benevolent neutrality. The original 1939 pact of non-aggression

served Germany well. The relations have ripened to pledges of friendship since, **but Germany has not been able to obtain from Russia the economic support she believes the Soviet to be able of providing.**

Germany may want even far more than the oil and grain that Russia possesses. The suspicion entertained by some shrewd observers that Germany is seeking a military alliance with Russia has been strengthened by various indications and reports. One report from Japanese sources declared that an alliance had in fact been concluded, but it was afterwards denied. Certainly the supplies that Russia has received have been extremely welcome, and Russia's position as a buyer abroad on behalf of Germany of such commodities as rubber, tin and copper, limited as they have been by the blockade, has been valuable to the Reich.

But a wholehearted Russian collaboration which would express itself economically in close economic ties and would go far to solve Germany's difficulties **has not been granted.** The chief reason for it has not been given owing to the political implications that giving of it would impose. **Germans would have to be admitted to Russia to get the raw materials and food-stuffs they want.** This is clear to the Russians who have pointed out that their growing industrialisation requires all or nearly all the commodities that Germany wants, while their railways are inadequate for their own transport. The German answer is that German technicians would solve all these problems if the Russians would admit them in sufficient numbers. But the arguments for and against the German exploitation of Russia's economic resources are academic in the face of the needs of political reality and of Germany's needs and intentions. **That Germauy is making a move to attack Russia economically or militarily, or both, is indicated by the present disposition of Germany's armies. There are concentrations of German troops at various points along the Black Sea. They are understood to have been further strengthened by the German decision to permit the Italians to occupy Greece, thus freeing those of their large and seasoned forces who are not intended for the Libyan campaign.**

With virtually the whole Continent conquered and no further campaign on the European mainland imminent, **Germany is able to exert almost the whole pressure of her military strength on Soviet Russia.**

Some Continental observers believe that the reason why Germany's relations with Russia are approaching a crisis is that the harvest in most parts of Europe is expected to be poor. **Hitler, it is said, has doubtless realised that the war cannot be ended before another winter, and he is desperately anxious to secure food supplies for the Reich by any means possible.** Russia, which in Germany's eyes is the granary of Europe, must then be made to yield up her riches.

But whatever the German impulse may be, there is little doubt of the danger for Russia in the present German military threat. There is still less doubt of the great success for Germany of either a military alliance or an economic agreement with German penetration, for example, into the Ukraine, to make it work. In the case of an economic agreement Germany would see herself able to declare to Britain and the United States that she was now in a position to fight a long war. Unless, therefore, the democratic powers wanted to face years of fighting, they had better—Germany would say—seek to bring the war to an end by a negotiated peace.

A military alliance between Germany and Russia, on the other hand, would probably not mean that Russia would join in the fighting on the German side except perhaps for some "sidelines" that she might pick up. Russia's rôle would more likely be to allow the passage of German troops to attack the Middle East.

BRITISH AND AXIS NAVAL STRENGTH.

WHAT ANALYSIS REVEALS.

*The **Daily Telegraph's** Naval Correspondent wrote on May 28:—*

After allowing for its latest losses, the Royal Navy can still **dispose of 14 battleships and two battle cruisers.** These comprise the new 35,000 tons battleships *King George V* and *Prince of Wales*, besides the *Duke of York*, which was due for completion some time ago; the *Nelson* and *Rodney*, each just under 34,000 tons; five ships of the *Queen Elizabeth* class (from 30,600 to 31,100 tons), four of which have been re-built and modernised; four of the *Royal Sovereign* class (29,150 tons); and the two battle cruisers *Renown* and *Repulse*, of 32,000 tons.

There are no more than **three German and five Italian battleships left,** leaving out of account the two "pocket battleships", which are glorified armoured cruisers incapable of standing up to a real capilal ship. The German ships are the *Tirpitz*, sister to the defunct *Bismarck* (35,000 tons), and the *Gneisenau* and the *Scharnhorst* (26,000 tons), which appear to be penned up at Brest.

Italy has the 35,000-ton *Littorio* and *Vittorio Veneto*, of which one was torpedoed by naval aircraft at Taranto last November and the other was hit by several torpedoes in the Battle of Cape Matapan. In fact, it is believed in some quarters that the *Vittorio Veneto* sank before reaching port. There were also three older, though re-constructed, battleships: *Andrea Doria*, *Giulio Cesare* and *Caio Duilio* (23,625 tons), one of which was damaged at Taranto.

AIRCRAFT—CARRIERS.

In aircraft-carriers the enemy scarcely comes into the picture. There are **eight British ships** of this category. **Germany has completed one**—the *Graf Zeppelin* (19,250 tons)—but the second of the same type does not seem to have been finished. **Italy has never built any.**

CRUISERS.

In cruisers this country is considerably stronger than when the war began. There are 15 armed with eight-inch guns and 43 of six-inch guns. Finally there are 11 with special armaments of high angle mountings, intended primarily for anti-aircraft duties.

Against this total of 69, the Germans in particular can show little. They have at the most four eight-inch-gun cruisers: The *Admiral Hipper*, *Sedalitz*, *Prinz Eugen* and another, whose name was originally to have been *Luetzow* but has been changed. There are also four with six-inch guns (5. 93 inches is the actual calibre): the *Nuernberg*, *Leipzig*, *Koeln* and *Emden*, though one of these may have been lost.

Italy has four eight-inch-gun cruisers, two of which were damaged by torpedo attack at Taranto and nine or ten with six-inch guns, the total depending on whether one was sunk at Matapan.

There are also two old cruisers, dating from before the last war, of little or no fighting value.

DESTROYERS.

In destroyers the British total is 247, without making allowance for the additional ships ordered after the outbreak of war and possibly now in service. Germany may have 24, with perhaps 40 sea-going torpedo boats of 600 to 800 tons. Italy has no more than 40 destroyers, with at most 50 sea-going torpedo boats; some of these are too old to be of much service.

FOOD SHORTAGE IN RUMANIA.
ITALY BENEFITS AT HUNGARY'S EXPENSE.
NAZIS STAY IN POLAND TO ESCAPE AIR RAIDS.

A Sunday Times Special Correspondent wrote on May 25 in an article on conditions in the occupied countries.

Food shortage in Rumania is very acute. Statements are issued again and again by the Rumanian authorities trying unsuccessfully to explain that the German army of occupation has nothing to do with the scarcity. The Germans, of course, are making sure of their own provisioning.

The fact is that in one of the greatest wheat-producing countries of Europe even bread is rationed and food riots are spreading. The burning-down of one after another of the largest flour mills in the country, due to "unknown causes," has aggravated the situation.

The process of "Rumanisation" instituted by Antonescu is meeting with many difficulties. It is proposed to buy properties from Jews—who are said to own about 90 per cent of all commercial enterprises—paying for them on a rental basis over a period of 20 to 30 years, and selling them to the Rumanians who will pay for them in similar manner.

Actually, most of these businesses have been passing into German hands, so that discontent is spreading and Antonescu was compelled to announce that stern measures will be taken against those who complain that "instead of one kind of alien we will have another".

BULGARIA.

The Bulgarian military missions in Salonika are prepared for taking over the city from the German troops. The Germans will remain in charge of the port and aerodrome, but they are prepared to yield the city to the Bulgar troops, in view of the continued demands raised by pro-German Bulgarians that the promise of attaching Salonika to the Bulgarian mainland should be fulfilled.

The frontier with Turkey is closed because there has been a drift of refugees from Western Thrace, where everyone dreads Bulgarian occupation.

HUNGARY.

Dissatisfaction with the Croatian "settlement" has been openly voiced in Budapest. Even members of the Hungarian "Life Movement," the official party led by Bardossy, the Prime minister, have made no secret of their view that the Hungarian Cabinet has blundered.

Croatia was promised to Hungary, and the fact that the nephew of the King of Italy has been placed on the throne of Croatia, making that Slav country virtually an outpost of the Italian Empire, is a slap in the face for Hungary.

Dissatisfaction in Budapest is so great that the Hungarian Envoy in Rome absented himself from the ceremonies which followed the handing of the Croatian crown to the Duke of Spoleto.

The purpose of the scheme is clear in Budapest. Italy has been told by Hitler that she must abandon any hope of incorporating French territory. This was promised to Darlan by Hitler. Therefore Mussolini has helped him self to territories promised to the lesser Axis partners, and the Duce's claims are now being satisfied at the expense of Hungary.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The clearing-up of the débris caused by uninterrupted bombing for three days in Belgrade is now in full swing. By May 1 over 10,000 bodies of men, women and children had been unearthed. The clearing away of the débris continues, and the authorities estimate that at least 5,000 more bodies will be found. The total casualties including the wounded amount to 60,000.

Hospital arrangements are insufficient, and the casualties had to be taken as far as Zagreb in many cases.

There is a strong feeling against the men of the *Tsetkovitch* régime, who are generally blamed for the dispositions which resulted in the collapse of Yugoslav resistance. They dare not show themselves in public in Belgrade, and most of them are living in the Zagreb area, where the Quisling régime is affording them greater protection.

POLAND.

German papers published in Pomerania and Pozania report that many tourists from Germany have been staying for long periods in the Polish provinces incorporated in the Reich. This state of things cannot be tolerated, say the papers, and they foreshadow restrictions on hotel visitors in these areas.

It seems that thousands have left the Rhineland and German seaports in order to escape the attention of the R. A. F.

HOLLAND.

Practically every day, fresh evidence is produced by the Dutch Nazis themselves of the hatred they have incurred among their loyal compatriots. The main Nazi paper *National Dagblad* reports that demonstrations against the Nazis flare up regularly in Rotterdam. Shots are fired from the roofs and tiles rained down on Nazi patrols in the streets. During recent disturbances 15 policemen were injured.

A well-known Dutch Nazi publicist bitterly complained in a broadcast to the people: " The same Dutchman who refuses to give to the Winter Help fund because it has the reputation of being a Nazi institution gladly gives a guilder to any street musician if he plays the national tunes before the house of a Nazi."

CRETE.

We have suggested here before that the balance-sheet of the Battle of Crete was not so dismal for us as Dr. Goebbels would suggest.

Some interesting casualty figures have now come to hand. We print them without comment.

Casualties to the British Expeditionary Force in **killed, wounded and missing totalled less than a single division.** German losses, on the other hand, are reported from neutral sources to have been in the region of 86,000: 36,000 from the armoured divisions engaged, 17,000 from the infantry, 23,000 from the mountain divisions and 10,000 from the Adolf Hitler Division (the Fuehrer's own unit). **In other words, German casualties were at least six times the British.** At least 200 Luftwaffe bombers, fighters and troop-carriers were destroyed by the Yugoslav, Greek and British airforces and anti-aircraft units. In a single battle over Athens twenty-two German planes were shot down by R. A. F. fighters. The initial German drive into Yugoslavia cost them 200 of the 700 tanks in use.

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period June 9—15, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

DUCE DISAGREES.

Berlin (June 12) reports the Duce's speech on the first anniversary of Italy's entry into the war, in which he "gave an account of the fighting between the Italian and Greek armies in the Albanian campaign". "The Italian Army lost 14,502 men from October till the end of May", said the Duce, apparently disagreeing with his own High Command, whose monthly *communiqués* have given the following casualty figures:—

Dead 13,157, wounded 38,064, missing 25,513.

" We have settled accounts with Greece", said the Duce. But the very same day Italian G. H. Q. issued a list of " confirmed losses " for the month of May. It included the following :—

Greco-Albanian and Albanian-Yugoslav fronts :—

1,430 killed, 4,123 wounded, 223 missing.

Italo-Yugoslav front :—

14 killed, 24 wounded.

These casualties were incurred in May. Yet the Yugoslav Army capitulated on April 18, the Greek Army on the Albanian front capitulated on April 23, and by April 30 hostilities on the Greek mainland had officially ceased.

It appears that the Greeks and Yugoslavs have not yet settled their accounts with the Duce, and that guerilla bands continue to take considerable toll of his army of occupation—the only job Hitler feels he can safely entrust to the Duce's " eight million bayonets ".

BERLIN *V.* TOKYO.

Collaboration by the three Axis partners in the propaganda field is not always as effective as Goebbels would wish. On June 10, for instance, Berlin reported that the French Army in Syria was " offering stubborn resistance to **the numerically superior forces of the enemy ".**

The previous day Tokyo had said, " The entire forces of the British and de Gaullists in Syria amount to about 20,000 men, while the French Army has approximately 40,000 or 50,000 men, including a great number of French officers. **Consequently the French forces are far superior to those of the enemy."**

SPEEDS COMPARED.

In a special review of the first four months of 1941, Berlin (June 12) gloats over the fact that, " in nearly two months, the German Africa Corps covered more than 1,100 miles, fighting against strong British forces ".

The distance is apparently worked out from Tripoli to the Egyptian border, but British troops never penetrated further than El Agheila, so on the first half of the journey the Germans were absolutely unopposed. On the second half (El Algheila to Sollum) the opposition comprised one British armoured brigade and one infantry division—for four divisions of the Army of the Nile had been sent to Greece.

Compare the German boast with Wavell's achievement in advancing 800 miles from his base in two months and mopping up eight Italian divisions on the way.

BRITISH MENTALITY.

"It is symptomatic of British mentality" says Rome (June 9), "that the British made the French detachments march in front of the British troops, thus forcing Frenchmen to fight against their own countrymen."

Apart from the fact that separate British columns are entering Syria, along different routes to those followed by General Catroux's force, those Frenchmen who offer resistance are not worthy to be called the countrymen of General de Gaulle's followers, They have betrayed France as well as Britain, their ally and friend, by allowing German troops to use Syria as a base for attack.

This is no attempt to conquer Syria. British and Free French forces are defending the real France against her enemies, and against the Frenchmen of little faith and less courage who have yielded to Axis bullying and blandishmennts.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

BARBAROUS RAID ON ALEXANDRIA.

In their Hindustani, Persian and Arabic broadcasts of June 9, the Nazis gloated over the effects of their second murderous raid on Alexandria, and claimed that this attack was concentrated on the arsenal and supply centre of the British naval base. **Actually, even though this raid was most determined and ruthless, the enemy failed to hit any warship or other military objective.** That the chief sufferers in this deliberately indiscriminate raid were mainly civilians is shown by the fact that considerable damage was done in European and Arab residential quarters, and that hundreds have been killed and injured.

BATTLESHIPS FOR CONVOYS.

The Nazis' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of June 13, misrepresented the use of Britain's battleships for convoying purposes as a sign of Britain's heavy and increasing naval losses. That Britain can spare her battleships for convoying is a sign of her strength, and not of her weakness. It shows that Germany's battle fleet is such a diminishing force that England can even afford to use her big ships for convoy duty. **Out of a total of seven capital ships possessed by Germany during this war, she has only one battleship *Tirpitz* and one pocket battleship left to her.**

PALESTINE AND GERMANY'S OBJECTIVE.

In their Hindustani aud Arabic broadcasts of June 10, the Nazis quoted a Palestine Arab named Allama Fauzi as stating that Britain was tired of oppressing the Arabs. In spite of Nazi professions, the Arabs realise what the Germans really stand for. The Palestine paper, the *Falastin* correctly sums up the Nazis when it says: " With the fall of Al Gilani, Berlin has been thoroughly exposed because of its failure to render help to a friend...... **The Arabs now realise that Germany's only objective is to create trouble, to destroy the independence of nations and to impose on the world a " New Order " which stands for universal disaffection, slavery and poverty ".**

IMAGINARY JAIL RIOTS.

On June 11 the Nazi radio in Hindustani announced as follows:— " Reports from other parts in India show that in many jails clashes between the police and prisoners took place. The Police aided by the British forces opened fire, as a result of which many prisoners were killed and wounded.

We in India would be most grateful if the Nazi radio would kindly supply further details of these alarming incidents. Details as to time and place would be particularly appreciated.

N. B.—Up to June 15, the Nazi radio had not been in a position to comply with the above request.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE L.

June	...28, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	29, Sunday ...	Alangudi	...	6.00 p. m.
		Rasiamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Monday ...	Annavasal	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichi	...	6.30 p. m.
July	... 1, Tuesday ...	Kulipirai	...	6.00 p. m.
		Sundaram	...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Wednesday	Kottaikkadu	...	6.00 p. m.
		Karambakkudi	...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Thursday ...	Ramachandrapuram	...	6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram	...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Friday ...	Valramanikkam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Yembal	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LI.

5, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
6, Sunday ...	Nirpalani	...	6.00 p. m.
	Avoor	...	6.30 p. m.
7, Monday ...	Semmattividuthi	...	6.00 p. m.
	Malayur	...	6.30 p. m.
8, Tuesday ...	Karayur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Idayathur	...	6.30 p. m.
9, Wednesday	Andakkulam	...	6.00 p. m.
	Killanur	...	6.30 p. m.
10, Thursday ...	Narthamalai	...	6.00 p. m.
	Uppiliakkudi	...	6.30 p. m.
11, Friday ...	Konnayur	...	6.00 p. m.
	Vegupatti	...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai, 1,000—28-6-41.